

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claims 4, 5, 10 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form.

No new matter has been added, and thus entry of the Amendment is respectfully submitted to be proper. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-12 will be all the claims pending in the application.

In Paragraph No. 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamashita et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,189,405).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Yamashita et al discloses that a moisture absorbent is dispersed in a moisture absorbent sheet 4 which can have any form, such as film, paper, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric (col. 3, lines 3 to 7). However, the form of the moisture absorbent sheet of Yamashita et al is a sheet. That is, the moisture absorbent sheet of Yamashita et al is not used in the form of a container as presently claimed.

Further, Yamashita et al does not disclose any container a part of which is made of a porous material (and the other of which is made of a non-porous material).

In the present invention, the reason why a part of the container is made of the porous material is that the porous portion allows the moisture or gas entered into the device to permeate and the removing agent in the container to come in contact with the moisture or gas rapidly to adsorb the moisture or gas.

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Yamashita et al neither discloses nor suggests the mechanism of adsorption of the moisture or gas according to the present invention.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Ebisawa et al (EP 0969700 A1). In addition, in Paragraph No. 6 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ebisawa et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,284,342).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

Ebisawa et al disclose that the desiccant 6 (calcium hydride and/or strontium hydride) is disposed in the recess in the sealing plate 3 and retained there by the sheet 5 having gas and water vapor permeability (Fig. 1; col. 3, line 60 to col. 4, line 14). However, Ebisawa et al do not disclose a container a part of which is made of a porous material. That is, Ebisawa et al do not disclose or anticipate the present invention.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

In Paragraph No. 7 of the Office Action, Claims 4, 5, 10 and 11 have been objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In response, Applicants have in the present Amendment, amended Claims 4, 5, 10 and 11 to be in independent form. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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